

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 5 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been canceled and claims 3 - 5 have been amended. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated August 26, 2003.

Allowable Claim Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in item 4 of the Office Action that claims 3, 4, 5/3 and 5/4 would be allowable, if amended, to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 3 and 4 have been rewritten into independent to include the features of base claim 1 and intervening claim 2. Thus, new independent claims 3 and 4 are allowable and claim 5 is allowable by its dependency on claims 3 and 4.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining pending claims 3 - 5 are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

Application No.: 09/870,464
Amendment dated November 24, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 26, 2003

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. If, for any reason, it is believed that this application is not in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number below to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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TEB/rer
Attachments: Change of Correspondence Address